

Town of



AMHERST

Massachusetts

TOWN HALL
4 BOLTWOOD AVENUE
AMHERST, MA 01002

SELECT BOARD
Phone (413) 259-3001
FAX (413) 259-2405

Email: selectboard@amherstma.gov

August 3, 2009

Michael W. Morrissey
State Senator
State House
Room 413-D
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Senator Morrissey:

The Amherst Select Board strongly opposes the proposed bill S1531 seeking to alter the negotiation of cable licenses.

Municipal government is not a nimble creature. Due diligence and public participation take time. Forced compression of the contract negotiation process to meet a corporate timeline undermines the interests of local communities.

In Amherst, the broadcasting of public meetings on TV and the web is a vital resource for keeping officials accountable and keeping residents informed. Reduction of such access is among the potential negative consequences of the proposed changes. We find these risks unacceptable.

In the interest of good government, the Amherst Select Board opposes the proposed legislation, and we urge you to do the same. Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

Stephanie J. O'Keeffe
Chair

cc: State Senator Stan Rosenberg
State Representative Ellen Story
Geoff Beckwith, MMA
James Lescault, ACTV



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August 3, 2009

Barry R. Finegold
State Representative
State House
Room 473 B
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Representative Finegold:

The Amherst Select Board strongly opposes the proposed bill H3765 seeking to alter the negotiation of cable licenses.

Municipal government is not a nimble creature. Due diligence and public participation take time. Forced compression of the contract negotiation process to meet a corporate timeline undermines the interests of local communities.

In Amherst, the broadcasting of public meetings on TV and the web is a vital resource for keeping officials accountable and keeping residents informed. Reduction of such access is among the potential negative consequences of the proposed changes. We find these risks unacceptable.

In the interest of good government, the Amherst Select Board opposes the proposed legislation, and we urge you to do the same. Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

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